



# ***NEWS AND VIEWS***

**Of Emergency Preparedness and Response**

**EPA Region 8**

**SPRING 2005**

999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300. Mail Code 8EPR-SA  
Denver, CO 80202-2466

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Welcome to the News and Views. We invite your input for articles. Please contact Jim Knoy at 303/312-6838 or [knoy.jim@epa.gov](mailto:knoy.jim@epa.gov).

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Doug Skie, Program Director  
303-312-6827, [Skie.doug@epa.gov](mailto:Skie.doug@epa.gov)

Jim Knoy, Emergency Planning/Response Manager  
303-312-6838, [knoy.jim@epa.gov](mailto:knoy.jim@epa.gov)

Johanna Miller, OSC Supervisor  
303-312-6804, [miller.johanna@epa.gov](mailto:miller.johanna@epa.gov)

Martha Wolf, Acting Preparedness Team Leader  
303-312-6839, [wolf.martha@epa.gov](mailto:wolf.martha@epa.gov)

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## **PERSONNEL CHANGES**

Johanna Miller was selected to become the supervisor of the R8 Emergency Response Unit last December 26, 2004. Johanna replaced Steve Hawthorn who left Region 8 to head up the EPA National Decon team in Cincinnati, OH. Johanna has a B.S. in Geological Sciences from Cornell University and an M.S. in Environmental Science and Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. She started with the Agency in 1983 and has worked: in HQ as a policy analyst & geologist; in Region 9 as a superfund remedial project manager (RPM); in Denver as an environmental scientist with an environmental consulting firm; and, for the past 9 years, in the Region 8 emergency response program as an on-scene-coordinator (OSC). As an OSC Johanna has managed the cleanup of a large number and variety of complex sites throughout Region 8, participated on numerous national strategy development work groups and has served very capably as the acting supervisor of the emergency response unit on too many occasions to count. Over the years Johanna has earned the trust and respect of those that have worked with her. Please offer Johanna your congratulations on receiving this well deserved promotion.

Martha Wolf, former EPA Region 8 On Scene Coordinator (OSC), has taken a two year temporary position as Team Leader of the EPA, Region 8 Prevention and Preparedness Team. Eric Steinhaus, former Team Leader, has taken a temporary position within the region as Lead Superfund Coordinator. Martha who has a ?? degree from ?? has been an OSC for ?? years and has been an influential leader in the Oil Pollution Act Program implementation in EPA. She was selected from a long list of qualified applicants and deserves our congratulations as well.

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PREPAREDNESS OFFICER

The Department of Homeland Security, Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), has a lead role for giving out Homeland Security grants. Fran Santagata has been actively involved with this process and here is a bit of information about her and the grants program. ODP is tasked with the primary responsibility within the executive branch of Government to build and sustain the preparedness of the United States to reduce vulnerabilities, prevent, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism. Preparedness Officers (PO) within ODP serve as the prime movers to accomplish this mission in their role as liaisons to their assigned states. Key to this role is the assistance provided by Preparedness Officers to ensure that states develop a solid homeland security strategy based upon a thorough risk assessment and capability analysis which is then used as the basis for all of their homeland security programs. This strategy is also the tool that the states use to guide the spending of their ODP grant funds. PO's encourage states to include all disciplines in their strategy and preparedness programs. They act as a conduit for all ODP programs including training, technical assistance, funding and equipment and administer their grants. Each state receives a tailored Homeland Security Assistance Program which is a toolbox of Federal resources which may assist them in improving the level of preparedness. PO's are required to monitor each state to ensure that they are meeting both programmatic and financial requirements and are continuing to improve their levels of preparedness.

Fran was assigned to Colorado, Wyoming and Montana until recently. Fran now covers Utah and Arizona. Although currently living in Washington DC until DHS develops Regional Offices, Fran calls Colorado home so her assignment to these western states was an excellent fit. She is able to tailor the delivery and assistance to ODP products to these states because of her intrinsic knowledge of her state's emergency response and preparedness capabilities. Prior to 9-11, Fran was a member of the Responder community in Colorado as a member of the Colorado DMAT/NMRT, hazmat tech, EMT, Safety Officer for University of Colorado Hospital and member of the Denver and Aurora MMRS. After 9-11, Fran was recruited by SAIC, a contractor within the DC area providing homeland security resources to Federal, State and local responders. In this position, Fran provided her expertise to the Pentagon for the development of their CONOPS & OPLANs for CBRNE response, NASA for the development of a weeklong CBRNE training program, the State of Montana for the assistance with Public Health Preparedness, Salt Lake City Olympics for Public Health Preparedness and operational support during the Olympics, ODP for training hospital medical providers and DHHS for bioterrorism preparedness. Shortly after the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, ODP recruited Fran as a PO.

Working for DHS is both exciting and challenging and is a role that Fran embraces proudly. Although it is difficult to stay ahead of the demands of the job which require

extensive travel to work directly with the states to provide the resources they need, Fran is inspired by the responders she supports to strive for excellence. Each day is an opportunity to improve the preparedness of our nation through her role as PO.

This past February, in recognition for Fran's contributions to the State of Colorado, Governor Bill Owens declared February 2, 2005 as Fran Santagata day!!

Contact Information:

Fran Santagata  
Preparedness Officer  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Office for Domestic Preparedness  
202-230-9376

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN HAZ MAT ASSOCIATION

The Rocky Mountain Hazardous Materials Association (RMHMA) is a non-profit organization that was formed to bring ALL groups impacted by hazardous materials together. The RMHMA provides a forum for education, interaction and cooperation. Within their web site you will find information on Training, News Letters, and Links to Other Haz-Mat Web Sites, Pictures of Haz-Mat Incidents from the Rocky Mountain Region and Membership Information.

The Rocky Mountain Hazardous Materials Association (RMHMA) draws upon the experience and expertise available from the public, industry, emergency response and regulatory agencies involved in the manufacturing, storage, transportation, disposal and public safety activities associated with hazardous materials. RMHMA is committed to providing opportunities for these groups and individuals to exchange information and share experiences in an open and amiable form for the benefit of all.

The RMHMA Board of Directors currently consist of representatives from Fire Departments, Law Enforcement, Schools, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Consultants, Health, Government, Emergency Medical Services, Industry and Transportation. If you have any questions about the organization, please feel free to contact them at [rmhma@rmhma.com](mailto:rmhma@rmhma.com).

## ATSDR HSEES REPORTS

Have you seen the Annual Reports from the Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry titled Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance? ATSDR puts these reports out for participating states. While Colorado and Utah are the only

participating states within EPA Region 8, their data could be useful for emergency planners from neighboring states.

These reports summarize the characteristics of events reported out to 15 state health departments. The reports provide tables, for instance, that indicate the percentages of haz mat events with victims and events with evacuations and the distributions of the numbers and types of injuries reported.

HSEES has four goals:

- To describe the distribution and characteristics of acute hazardous substances releases;

- To describe morbidity and mortality among employees, responders, and the general public that resulted from hazardous substance releases;

- To identify risk factors associated with the morbidity and mortality; and

- To identify strategies that might reduce future morbidity and mortality resulting from hazardous substances.

For more information, please contact Chris Poulet at 303-312-7013 or Glenn Tucker at 303-312-7010.

## **NATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN AND MORE, UPDATE:**

EPA, like most government entities has been working hard to train on and comply with both the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Response Plan (NRP). EPA Region 8 has almost completed training all of its response personnel in the NRP, and the NIMS implementation is well on its way.

EPA has trained all of its On Scene Coordinators (OSCs) to the 400 level ICS. Each EPA region has also trained and stood up Type 2 Incident Management Teams trained to the 420 level.

EPA Region 8 also has a new Mobile Command Post and soon will have a Mobile Emergency Operations Center which it will share with Regions 9 (San Francisco) and 10 (Seattle). EPA Regions 8, 9 and 10 conducted two training/exercise programs together last year to test back-up region capabilities and to ensure that the Western US EPA Regional offices can support each other during a large incident. For more information, please contact Jim Knoy at 303-312-6838 or [knoy.jim@epa.gov](mailto:knoy.jim@epa.gov).

## REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

The Region 8 Regional Response Team (RRT) conducted its semi-annual meeting on January 18 and 19, 2005 in the Regional offices. The meeting focused primarily on the introduction and implementation of the National Response Plan (NRP) and its impact on RRT operations.

The guest speaker during the December RRT meeting was Mr. Al Allen of Spiltec. Mr. Allen is an expert in the application of in-situ burning to address oil spills. Mr. Allen's presentation discussed both the technical and administrative aspects of in-situ burning. The administrative issues included RRT approval process for in-situ burning, when in-situ burning is a practical option, and cost comparisons vs. traditional cleanup methods.

The National Response Team (NRT) held its annual meeting in Region VIII. The location was the Marriott Denver Tech Center. The focus of the NRT meeting was geared toward readiness and homeland defense/security issues. The NRP was a feature issue along with Homeland Security Presidential Directives 5 and 8. A limited group of NRT members were treated to a field trip of NORAD's Cheyenne Mountain facility located in Colorado Springs.

The next Region VIII RRT Meeting is scheduled for June 22-23, 2005 in Park City, Utah.

For more information, please contact John McKeown at 303-312-6831, [mckeown.john@epa.gov](mailto:mckeown.john@epa.gov).

## CHEMICAL ACCIDENT PREVENTION

EPA's Risk Management Program (RMP) is the Chemical Accident Prevention regulation under the Clean Air Act. Generally, facilities with bulk amounts of flammable or toxic chemicals must register a summary of their chemical accident prevention program with EPA. In June of 2004, 5-year updates were required of most facilities. In Region 8, approximately 86% of facilities filed their updated plans. The updated Risk Management database reflects 895 facilities within Region 8 distributed as follows:

Colorado	222
Montana	89
North Dakota	353
South Dakota	81
Utah	81
Wyoming	69

LEPCs and states can obtain more specific information about these facilities from EPA, including chemical accident history specifics. EPA also encourages a high level of coordination and communication between these facilities, their local LEPCs, and first responder personnel. Also, if there are locals and facilities that are coordinating well

together, EPA would like to recognize these efforts. For more information, please contact Barbara Benoy, EPA's Risk Management Program Coordinator, at 303-312-6760 or [benoy.barbara@epa.gov](mailto:benoy.barbara@epa.gov).

## EPA OSC SITE INFORMATION

Would you like to know what the EPA On Scene Coordinators (OSCs) are working on in your state? Look at the following URL to get that information.

[http://www.epaosc.org/region\\_list.asp?region=8](http://www.epaosc.org/region_list.asp?region=8)

## OSHA FACT SHEETS

Would you like health and safety information related to Haz Mat Response? Check this site out:

[http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data\\_General\\_Facts/factsheet-workplaceemergencies.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/factsheet-workplaceemergencies.pdf)

## CHEMICAL REACTIVITY TOOL

Thanks to the efforts of two national Alliances, OSHA unveiled its newest Safety and Health Topics page this month focusing on the hazards associated with reactive chemicals. Chemical Reactivity Hazards provides valuable information for workers and employers involved in the manufacture, distribution, use and storage of chemicals. The page is a product of two Alliances: the Dow Chemical Company, and the Reactives Alliance (consisting of the Environmental Protection Agency and six organizations involved in the chemical industry).

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/reactivechemicals/index.html>

## MOBILE COMMAND POST

EPA Region 8 recently acquired a Mobile Command Post (MCP). The MCP provides the OSCs with a small operations center for 4 to 8 personnel, with the latest connectivity and media technologies. It is intended to be deployed primarily in EPA's Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming). However, if events necessitate, the MCP may be deployed throughout the entire US. Currently, the MCP can be on the road within 2 to 3 hours of being called out if we are responding to the Front Range. However, for areas beyond the Front Range, it could take as long as 24 hours, depending on the length of the haul.

The MCP is a self-contained gooseneck type trailer 28 feet long, 15 feet wide with approximately 280 square feet of usable space. The space inside the trailer consists of a sleeping compartment over the hitch, a dual use workstation/conference room in the midsection, a small restroom/shower, and a small communications area at the rear. There are two hydraulically powered pop-outs that enlarge the dual use area, making it sufficiently large enough for 4-6 people to work comfortably. Within the MCP, there is an all in one printer/scanner/copier, internal network, a file server/network attached storage (NAS), a 27-inch TV, and VCR/DVD players. It has satellite TV, internet, VoIP telephones, a Virtual Private Network (VPN) with the EPA Regional Response Center (RRC) in Denver, Colorado, and an encrypted wireless LAN. The MCP will bring the following capabilities to an incident:

- The VPN provides VoIP phone connections to the RRC, as well as video conferencing ability with any EPA Regional or Headquarters office(s) and State EOCs with the capability.
- The file server/NAS houses EPA GIS layers to facilitate better on-scene mapping ability.
- The encrypted wireless LAN will allow the MCP to support a larger number of responders outside its walls, without compromising data security.

For more information, contact Craig Myers, On Scene Coordinator (303) 312-7067

